(b) and (c) The State Government have undertaken two medium projects *viz.* Pilasalki and Bondapiple in Phulbani District. Their ultimate irrigation potential is 7390 ha., out of which a potential of 3590 ha. was expected to be created by the end of the Sixth plan.

2598. [*Transferred to the 18th December*, 1985].

Allotment of newsprint to Newspapers

2599. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many newspapers could not take delivery of the allotted newsprint quota for the year 1984-85 from the State Trading Corporation due to failure of S. T. C. to import enough quantity of newsprint for want of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not releasing enough foreign exchange for this purpose; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in the case of such newspapers who could not taken delivery of newsprint from S.T.C. for this reason?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few newspapers could not be serviced imported newsprint to the extent of the quota allotted to them by the State Trading Corporation of India on account of constraints on foreign exchange resources.

(c) Servicing of the unserviced newsprint quota to such newspapers would depend on availability of foreign exchange.

Under-utilization of installed capacities in Sugar Mills

2600. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of sugar mills in the country and their location State-wise;

(b) what is the total installed capacity of the mills;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some of the factories there is under utilization of the installed capacities; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P SINGH DEO): (a) There are 360 installed sugar factories in the country at present. A statement giving the location of these factories State-wise: is attached [*See* appendix CXXXVI, Annexure No. 48].

(b) The total installed capacity of sugar factories as on 30-11-85 was 73.59 lakh tonnes of annual sugar production.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure full utilization of installed capacity:

1. The Statutory minimum price of Sugarcane for 1985-86 season has been increased from Rs. 14.00 to Rs. 16.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with proportionate premium of every 0.1 per cent rise in recovery above the basic level. The statutory minimum price for 1986-87 season has also been announced simultaneously at Rs. 17.00 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5 per cent which is indicative of the steps being taken by Government of India to boost indigenous production. During the current sugar year, it is expected that factories would be able to pay on an all-India basis, an average cane price of Rs. 24.00 per quintal as against Rs. 21.00 and 22.00 per quintal paid in earlier season.

2. The State Governments have been requested to make available adequate sugarcane for sugar factories by taking effective regulatory and development measures.

3. Sugar Development Fund Rules provide for extending loan assistance for sugarcane development. The